Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UR, US, UK

SUBJECT: BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

REF: LONDON 2626

- 1. TIMERBAYEV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION, CALLED IN POL COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 21 TO REPORT THAT BRITISH EMBASSY HAD NOTIFIED HIM THAT FINAL ORDER IN COUNCIL ON BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION WILL BE SIGNED FEBRUARY 26 AND THAT DEPOSIT RATIFICATION CEREMONY COULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN MARCH 4 AND MARCH 21. BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED, TIMERBAYEV SAID, THAT CEREMONY BE PRESIDED OVER BY FOREIGN MINISTERS AND RESIDENT AMBASSADORS OF OTHER TWO DEPOSITORY STATES IN THREE CAPITALS.
- 2. SOVIETS, TIMERBAYEV SAID, INCLINED TO ACCEPT BRITISH PROPOSAL. RE DATES, TIMERBAYEV STATED THAT MARCH 12 AND THEREABOUTS IS NO GOOD FOR GROMYKO. MARCH 6,7,10, AND 11 WERE OUT, ACCORDING TO UK EMBASSY, SINCE FONMIN CALLAGHAN WOULD NOT BE IN LONDON. TIMERBAYEV THEREFORE SAID THAT IF WE COULD PROPOSE MARCH 5, HE COULD THEN RECOMMEND ACCEPTING THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DATE TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

- 3. TIMERBAYEV SAID BRITISH SUGGESTED CEREMONIES SHOULD BE ATTENDED BY AMBASSADORS OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE SIGNED CONVENTION IN VARIOUS CAPITALS. SOVIETS HAVE NO POSITION ON THIS, HE ADDED, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT WITH 190 SIGNATORIES AND 38 OR 39 RATIFIERS, "BIG CROWD" WAS PROBLEM WHICH REQUIRED ADVANCE PLANNING.
- 4. TIMERBAYEV ADDED THAT SOVIETS WERE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO SIGNATORIES WHO HAD NOT YET RATIFIED BWC TO SPEED UP PROCESS, AS WERE BRITISH.
- 5. BRITISH POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAS PROVIDED US WITH SLIGHT CLARIFICATION OF ABOVE. BRITISH, HE SAID, PROPOSED THAT A MINISTER -- I.E. A CABINET MEMBER -- PRESIDE OVER CEREMONIES BUT NOTED THAT IN LONDON IT WOULD BE CALLAGHAN. OBVIOUSLY, UK POL COUNSELOR ADDED, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE MINISTER TO BE THE FOREIGN MI ISTER. BRITISH SUGGESTION PARA 3 ABOVE HE EMPHASIZED, WAS SUGGESTION ONLY AND NOT HARD POSITION. STOESSEL

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